



DRAFT PTA General Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2023
8:00 am at MES@Inman auditorium

- I. Call-to-Order and Welcome
 - a. Co-President Dawn Rutherford calls the meeting to order at 08:03 am
 - b. Quorum is established (41 members present; quorum is at least 15)
 - c. Two handouts were circulated:
 - i. QR code printout with relevant links:
 1. August 23, 2022 General Meeting Minutes
 2. January 26, 2023 General Meeting Agenda
 3. 2022-23 Proposed Budget Changes: January 26, 2023
 - ii. List of important dates for the 2022-23 school year PTA events
 - d. Co-President Dawn Rutherford presents the agenda as posted on the MES PTA website and circulated via printed QR code in the meeting
 - i. No additions requested
 - ii. Motion to approve by Susan Mapen
 1. Second from Kristen Weinstein
 2. Unanimous approval
 - e. Co-President Dawn Rutherford: Thanks to all parents who contributed to PTA this year. Please reach out to us if you have yet to find your place. Thanks to all chairs and leaders for fall events, teacher appreciation, lost and found, spirit wear, and campus beautification.
 - f. Co-President Tony Moore: Amazing show of involvement this year. Keep the same energy from fall into spring.
 - g. Co-President Tony Moore: PTA Board of Directors toured the renovated MES campus at East Rock Springs (MES@ERS) to see areas of opportunity for next year. Biggest areas are for investment and parent work days are the garden, auditorium, rear playground, murals & artwork. Get excited! This is our opportunity to make our mark on the new campus before school starts in the fall!
- II. Secretary Emily Cooper presents the minutes from General Meeting of August 23, 2022 as posted on the PTA website and circulated via printed QR code in the meeting
 - a. No corrections noted
 - b. Motion to approve by Justin Hubbarth
 - i. Second from Kristen Weinstein
 - ii. Unanimous approval



- III. Election of the 2023 Nominating Committee - Secretary Emily Cooper
 - a. The following members of the MES PTA have been nominated to serve on our Nominating Committee to propose the slate of officers for the 2023-24 MES PTA, and each nominee has consented to serve if elected to the committee: Brian Baron, Robin Duetsch Edwards, Ryan Hebert, Susan Mapen, Stephanie Mayfield, Prit Patra, and Mallory Rahman.
 - b. All MES PTA members present at the General meeting received a paper ballot and selected five (5) Nominating Committee candidates to serve on the Nominating Committee. Membership Chair Matt Fox counted and certified the results.
 - c. The five members of the Nominating Committee elected by ballot are: Brian Baron, Robin Duetsch Edwards, Ryan Hebert, Susan Mapen, Stephanie Mayfield. The alternate position on the Nominating Committee will be held by: Prit Patra. Secretary Emily Cooper appoints Stephanie Mayfield as the temporary chair for the committee; the temporary chair will set the first meeting date/time/location for the committee. At the first meeting, the committee will elect a permanent chair.

- IV. VP Reports - Each VP highlighted key events this spring and volunteer opportunities
 - a. VP Enrichment – Anne-Marie DeBacker
 - i. Family Science Night: February 15-16, 2023
 - 1. Ali Giannovola - FSN is back in person this year! Wednesday is targeted for grades k-2; Thursday is targeted for grades 3-5. Families should select one night to attend together. Each night will begin with an amazing presenter who will give a “magic science” show for the first 30 minutes, to be followed by 3 sessions. Registration is open now and includes the family selected day and session preferences; registration closes Monday Jan 30th!
 - ii. WAVES-MES Arts Showcase: April 23, 2023 - 2pm @ Inman auditorium
 - 1. Stephanie Mayfield - Currently accepting art, written word, etc. which will be on display. Live performances will be on stage. Logo design contest open now!
 - b. VP Fundraising – Justin Hubbarth



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- i. Casino Night: March 11, 2023 - Volunteers needed for wide range of jobs: program printing, signage design, decorations, stations before, during, and after the event. Seeking raffle / silent auction items.
 - ii. MES Night at Atlanta United: March 18, 2023 - details posted on MES Community FaceBook page; tickets go on sale next week; parents and students will have seats as a block of 150 tickets in the same section.
 - c. VP Operations – Camille Richardson
 - i. Love Cart: February around Valentine’s Day - teachers can select items treats and gifts from the love cart.
 - ii. Teacher Appreciation Week: March 27-31, 2023 - Volunteers needed on execution jobs for this year and on planning committee as we develop new ideas for next year
 - d. VP SWAG – Jackie Townley
 - i. Field Day: April 13, 2023 - stay tuned for details
 - ii. Earth Week: April 24-28, 2023 - school-wide event during which every grade gets an earth-based learning experience; volunteers needed!
 - iii. Garden project for renovated East Rock Springs campus: this “blank canvas” is calling for volunteers and fundraising
 - e. VP Community – Robin Duetsch Edwards for Elizabeth Fox
 - i. Dolphins Do Good (MES hands on community service) & No Place for Hate (district wide initiative): Ms. Deal has planned an empathy lesson for students in preparation; kids will assemble comfort bags for Homeless at Heart; volunteers will organize materials for teachers tomorrow; February 1, 2023 is the “day of play”, on which every student will build a comfort bag for those experiencing homelessness (>800 bags total!)
- V. Treasurer’s Report – Financial Review
 - a. Treasurer Kristen Weinstein presents the 2022-23 PTA Budget Amendment as posted on the PTA website and circulated via printed QR code in the meeting
 - b. Initial budget was developed at start of the year; adjustments have been made based on actual amounts spent/raised halfway through year
 - c. Boosterthon - more income was raised than originally planned
 - d. Halloween - more income was raised than originally planned
 - e. Total revenue increase of actuals vs. budgeted was about \$39,000
 - f. Auction expenses increased vs. budgeted due to venue change and inflation
 - g. Boosterthon expense also increased vs. budgeted as percent of revenue



- h. Community budget overall decreased as actuals were lower than original budget
 - i. Book Fair was not included in the previous budget; however, this event results in a net breakeven in the PTA budget as all proceeds are realized in a credit that Mr. Rawls can spend on new library books (approximately \$7,000 this year)
 - j. Garden budget will be increased to approximately \$11,000 to reflect anticipated Casino Night net revenue and may be increased in future budgets if needed
 - k. Other adjustments included contingency decrease, specials increase, 5th Grade budget increase for Blue Ridge as needed
 - l. After all adjustments, the gross profit increased by approximately \$25,000
 - m. Stephanie Mayfield motions to approve the 2022-23 PTA Budget Amendment as presented
 - i. Second from Denise Lippert
 - ii. Unanimously approved
- VI. Principal's Update– Audrey Sofianos
- a. Mrs. Sofianos kicked off her update by remarking that the variety and volume of magical enrichment opportunities for students makes public school THE option for the children
 - b. Midtown principals will meet soon at the Inman campus for coordination across the cluster in preparation for next year's transitions
 - c. Administration is in the thick of teacher evaluation season. Teachers have been tasked with two big goals across the school this year in addition to incorporating STEAM: (1) student goal setting for at least 6 students to develop best practice based on MAP scores as well as other growth areas to help motivate students, and (2) increasing the use of academic language by teachers and students to have access to the vocabulary needed for test taking and their future academic journey.
 - d. Staff updates:
 - i. Sue Hardrath, a kindergarten paraprofessional, retired mid-year.
 - ii. Laurie Guerino will retire at the end of this year.
 - iii. Anticipate 6-10 MES staff members will stay at the Inman campus next year and join Virginia Highland Elementary.
 - e. Budgets were received this week and will be discussed at the next GO Team meeting on Tuesday. If you have input on budget, contact one or more of your GO team representatives prior to the meeting or use the public comment forum.
 - f. 68 MES students will stay at the Inman campus and join Virginia Highland Elementary (VHE). Administration encourages parents to get their children excited for rezoning - you are the expert in this building! It will be nice for the



- students to have familiar staff at their new school, and it will be a great opportunity for the staff to help build a new school. Staff changes will be announced once all hiring is official.
- g. Principal Harness is working on VHE branding and colors. He has been gathering input from future VHE families and the PTO has formed. Like MES, VHE will have a large percentage of students that can walk to school! Tours of the Inman campus will be available for prospective VHE families.
 - h. MES at East Rock Springs (MES@ERS): campus renovation update
 - i. Administration continues to work through the “punch list” with APS and Parish construction. Another walk through is scheduled for next week.
 - ii. MAS will tour the campus soon to work on building flow, etc.
 - iii. 5 classrooms for 5th grade will be in the “penthouse” above the new gym.
 - iv. There will be no portables!
 - v. Mr. Baron will be giving tours to parents. Today’s Digital Dolphin will have a sign up genius link for current and prospective parents.
 - vi. The Midtown mural will be installed tomorrow at East Rock Springs!
 - i. Enrollment, capacity, administrative transfers, pre-K
 - i. 823 today MES@Inman (net gain from fall)
 - ii. 746 projection for next year MES@ERS. 4th and 5th grades will be approximately the same size next year. K-3rd will have smaller grade bands.
 - iii. MES@ERS will be at 91% of APS capacity formula next year. Mrs.Sofianos believes the APS capacity number is too high based on optimal organization. Not every room is ideal for a classroom.
 - iv. MES administration needs to see how everything will fit in the renovated campus before considering pre-K. Other Midtown cluster schools will have pre-K and MES families can enter into the lottery for those spots.
 - v. The APS cutoff for administrative transfer eligibility is 90%. Mrs.Sofianos asked APS for an exception to MES so it could be on the list, but it was not approved. Mary Lin, SPARK, and Hope-Hill are eligible for administrative transfers. Virginia Highland Elementary cannot accept transfers for the first four years because it is a new school.
 - j. Budget for next year is under development with collaboration from the GO team. The lower enrollment will result in a smaller budget so adjustments are needed.
 - k. Mr. Baron has recently refreshed the MES website; all the same content is available but navigation has been simplified.

VII. Adjournment - Dawn Rutherford



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- a. Next meeting will be April 19th at 8:00am. PTA members will elect new officers for the 2023-23 school year.
- b. Tony Moore strongly encourages PTA members to consider stepping up into a leadership position. You'll be surprised how rewarding it is and how much your kids appreciate it and are proud of it. Congratulations to the Nominating Committee members elected today!
- c. Motion to adjourn from Stephanie Mayfield
 - i. Second by Shraddha Strennan
 - ii. Meeting adjourned at 8:57am